

**NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES**

**Advisory Committee Minutes
Clarion Hotel
320 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, NC**

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Attending:

Commission Members:

Marvin Swartz, MD, Dorothy Rose Crawford, Laura Coker, Dr. Diana J. Antonacci, Sandra C. DuPuy, Emily Moore, Anna Marie Scheyett, PhD

Ex-Officio Committee Members:

Robin Huffman, Martha Brock, Mark Sullivan

Excused:

Martha Macon, Ann Forbes

Division Staff:

Denise Baker, Marta T. Hester, Andrea Borden, Leesa Galloway

Others:

Paula Cox Fishman, Erin McLaughlin, Louise G. Fisher, John L. Crawford, Joe Donovan, Betsy Lee White, Diane Pomper, Jill Rushing

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Marvin Swartz, Chairman, Advisory Committee, at approximately 1:05 pm, following the morning session of the Rules Committee meeting. Following the ethics awareness and conflict of interest reminder, Dr. Swartz reviewed the day's agenda and the minutes from the April 10, 2008 meeting. Laura Coker, Advisory Committee member, provided edits to the minutes to reflect the following:

In the mail-out packet, Commission for MH/DD/SAS, Rules and Advisory Committee Meetings, April 10, 2008, the following addition should be made under Christina Carter's presentation on page 45: "Laura Coker emphasized that workforce training for the Community Support definition must include foundational instruction on psycho-social rehabilitation and a true recovery orientation."

On page 46, near the bottom of the page under Brainstorming Session Topic in the Commission mail-out packet, Ms. Coker requested that the first sentence of this paragraph be replaced with the following: "Laura Coker recommended that the Advisory Committee consider how Commission policy, i.e., rule language is created so that the Commission might have a more active role in this process. The Commission's charge is set forth in statute and therefore should be more accountable in its involvement in policy development. For instance, perhaps there should be a process by which the Commission proactively informs policy content."

Upon motion, second, and unanimous vote, the Advisory Committee approved the minutes of the April 10, 2008 Advisory Committee meeting to include Ms. Coker's edits.

Finalize Priority Focus Areas(s) for 2008:

Dr. Swartz advised the committee members that Leesa Galloway, Planner and Evaluator, Operations Support Section, NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (NC DMH/DD/SAS), was present to help facilitate a brainstorming session to assist the members in selecting focus area(s) for the next fiscal year. Dr. Swartz further added that it is possible that the committee can focus on multiple topics instead of one.

A summary of the Advisory Committee's Brainstorming session is provided below:

- **Review of Focus Areas Presented and Discussed at Prior Commission Advisory Meetings:**
 - Access to Health Care: Community Support Services
 - Access to Health Care: Dental Healthcare for MH/DD/SAS Consumers
 - Staffing Levels at Facilities (Including DD Facilities)
- **Additional Focus Areas Presented and/or Recommended at the July 9th, 2008 Meeting:**
 - Veteran issues/outreach. (re. Who is responsible for monitoring what/how veteran services are provided at clinics?)
 - Stronger Advocacy Functions at the Local and State Level. (re. Recommendation for external reporting mechanism, via an ombudsman, of Consumer Complaints to go directly to the DHHS Secretary.)
 - Implementation of the Workforce Development Plan; to include, but not limited to: Training/ensuring competency of staff, etc.
 - Continued education on various topics provided to the Commission's Advisory Committee members.
 - Ensuring more Supported Employment opportunities for MH/DD/SAS Consumers.
 - Strengthening consumers' access to appropriate and timely care; including, but not limited to: Care coordination, researching and addressing capacity issues, ensuring consumer choice.
 - Jail Diversion
- **Focus Area that was decided by the Advisory Committee to be a Priority and one that would have the Largest Impact.** *(NOTE: It was acknowledged by the Advisory Committee that "Access to Care" is a broad topic and that additional discussion and planning will be required.)*
 - Access to Care (Systematic Issues) to include, but not be limited to: capacity issues, consumer choice, care coordination, dental care, etc.
 - Implementation of the Workforce Development Initiative Report/Plan
 - Continued Education on various topics for the Advisory Committee Members.

Public Comment:

Louise Fisher spoke about the presentation made by Dr. Susan Saik, Medical Director at Central Regional Hospital, and the topic of Broughton Hospital during the morning session of the Rules Committee meeting.

There being no further business, the Advisory Committee meeting adjourned at 2:05pm.